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TCS 8079/79

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18 October 1979

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of Task Force Alpha Research on Soviet Ground  
Forces Presence in Cuba

1. Summary: Since early September, Task Force Alpha has re-searched intelligence records for information on the Soviet brigade and on other possible Soviet ground forces presence in Cuba. We have confirmed and broadened our knowledge of the brigade and formed a preliminary judgment that there are no other Soviet units on the island. We have also come to a better understanding of the Soviet Military Advisory Group there.

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2. Sources: documents -- many ordered from Central Intelligence Agency archives -- were reviewed for references to concentrations of Soviet military personnel. With the assistance of the Office of Central Reference, the Task Force obtained reports containing combinations of the The Intelfax system was tasked, the Index to Intelligence Periodicals examined, and an AEGIS run was made for materials meeting these criteria from 1962 to the present. A manual search was also made of OCR's Job 3 collection of reports covering the period January 1963 through December 1967.

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3. The documents -- some and about

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*This memorandum was prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency's Task Force Alpha. Any comments or questions should be addressed to*

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4. Findings: About [ ] reports contained references to Soviet activity at the brigade garrison at Santiago de las Vegas. A sizeable number also referred to Soviet presence at other locations (Lourdes and Alquizar) associated with the brigade, and a smaller number referred to the San Pedro training area. [ ] was inconclusive on the existence of the brigade and its elements at these locations. [ ]

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5. The materials the Task Force examined also contained reports of a Soviet military presence at 50 other places scattered about the island. These locations usually fell into one of two categories: places where Soviet troops were reported as present in the early 1960s, but were never reported as being withdrawn, and places where they were definitely reported as present at some time since 1965.

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[ ] all of these locations with negative results. [ ]

6. The search also turned up evidence enough to cause us to question our holdings on the location, organization, and functions of the Soviet Military Advisory Group. (A separate memorandum on this subject will be forwarded to you.) [ ]

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7. Although we have found no persuasive evidence that any Soviet military units other than the brigade are present in Cuba, we cannot state categorically that there are none. We believe that this will prove to be the case, however. Our detailed search revealed such a relatively large body of reporting on the brigade and its components that if any other Soviet unit were there, we would expect to find a similar number of clues to its existence--but have found none that we have been able to substantiate. [ ]

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